



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

**Minutes of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 3rd December 2020 at 2.00 p.m.
in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway**

Members in attendance:

Cllr. Ivan Canning (Cathaoirleach)	Galway County Council
Cllr. Liam Carroll	Galway County Council
Mairtin Davy	PPN Representative
Helena McElmeel	Business Representative
Cllr. Padraic Mac an Iomaire	Galway County Council
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Galway County Council

Staff in attendance:

Kieran Coyne	A/Senior Executive Officer
Sharon O'Grady	Arts Officer
Bernie Kelly	A/County Librarian
Claire Connolly	Clerical Officer

Apologies:

Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Galway County Council
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	Galway County Council
Alan Farrell	A/Director of Services
Mary McGann	Administrative Officer
Megan Flynn	PPN Representative

Cllr. Ivan Canning welcomed everyone to the 4th meeting of the Community and Culture SPC (Strategic Policy Committee) and thanked everyone for attendance and he noted apologies.

1. Minutes of Community and Culture SPC meeting held on 22/09/ 2020

Cllr Ivan Canning asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of that Meeting. No queries arose. On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Carroll seconded by Cllr Padraic Mac an Iomaire, the Minutes were agreed and adopted.

2. Draft Galway County Council Arts Plan 2020-2024

Ms. Sharon O'Grady, Arts Officer, referenced the draft Arts Plan for 2020-2024 which had been circulated to all Members in advance of the Meeting. Ms. O'Grady gave a comprehensive and in-depth presentation on the draft Plan under the following headings:

Overview:

Galway County Council is the leading agency engaged in local arts development in County Galway.

Programmes to date: Support artists, professional arts organisations and artform development. Arts initiatives for young people, community groups and specific Arts in Context programmes (Arts in Health, Arts in Disability Arts in Older Years).

Key Successes: UNESCO City of Film, European Capital of Culture 2020, Music Generation, Creative Places Tuam 2020-2022, Erasmus+, Culture Up

Current Programme: Extensive range of supports, programmes and initiatives for individual artists, organisations, festivals and voluntary groups. Strong focus on children and young people, work with key partners to offer arts experiences in older years and disability sector. Collaborate with communities on arts participation projects (Arts Grants)

Arts Office Manages: Public Art Programme, Agents of Change, Culture Night and Creative Ireland Programmes.

Policies and Context:

- Legislative Framework
- Local Policy Framework
- National Policy Framework

Infrastructure:

Vision Mission and Values:

5 Key Strategic Priorities:

- **Priority I:** Artists
- **Priority II:** Infrastructure
- **Priority III:** Engagement and Inclusion
- **Priority VI:** Capacity Building
- **Priority V:** Recovery and Re-growth

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Implementation and Appendix:

Following the presentation, a discussion arose whereby thanks and appreciation were afforded to Ms. S O'Grady from all members present for the in-depth work associated with developing and producing such an ambitious draft Arts Plan. Further discussion ensued on the draft Arts Plan including positivity expressed by Cllr. Carroll on the importance of the Libraries involvement especially for all children, those not involved in sport and those with disabilities to enhance their creativity. He outlined the importance of the libraries as a space for concerts etc. and the importance of using local artists etc for prizes for competitions in the libraries. Ms Helena McElmeel expressed support with monitoring such an ambitious plan. Ms. B Kelly outlined the continued and positive collaboration between libraries and arts office with numerous ongoing online creativities. Mr Kieran Coyne outlined the importance of the Arts Plan for County Galway and the overlay with the regeneration plan with some elements. He also outlined the lack of a big performance space. Cllr Peter Keaveney, outlining the issue with cancellation of many festivals due to Covid 19 and the importance for children to be involved in the arts.

Mr. Mairtin Davy outlined the importance of community in the arts and the importance of distinguishing between arts and crafts and importance of local artists. In response Ms S O' Grady outlined the numerous collaborations with libraries and its importance as a resource and also outlined the importance of key development in the Arts going forward for disabilities with collaborations with expertise of Blue Teapot, Brother of Charity etc. Ms. O'Grady also outlined the support the Arts Office gives to professional artists living in the County i.e., grants and bursaries under various schemes. The Creative Ireland programme has now opened new opportunities for all artists and community groups. When mapping the plan on a yearly basis outlining the key priorities, challenges include resourcing with supports needed in this area for full implementation of plan.

The Draft Arts Plan 2020-2024 was received in a very positive manner by all.

On the proposal of Cllr Liam Carroll, seconded by Cllr Ivan Canning, the SPC Members recommended that the draft Plan be presented to a Plenary Meeting of Galway County Council for consideration and adoption.

3. Any Other Business

No issues were raised. Cllr. Ivan Canning wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

Meeting concluded at 3pm.